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### REMARKS

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yen et al. (US 5,032,274). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yen et al. utilize an extrusion process having an "air gap" between an extruder nozzle and a liquid into which the extrudate is directed. In contrast, and as recited in amended Claim 1, Applicants utilize an extrusion process that does not include any such an air gap. See also page 10, lines 3-4 of Applicants' specification. Applicants have found that only by utilizing the claimed extrusion process with no "air gap" are hollow fiber membranes having the IPA flow time characteristics specified by the claims obtained. Such a result is neither taught nor suggested by Yen et al.

Moreover, the teachings of Yen et al. teach away from the present invention. In Yen et al., the inventors developed an "air gap" process for the formation of hollow microporous fibers in which increasing IPA flow rates were correlated to decreasing IPA bubble pressures. See, Col. 6, lines 1-24. In other words, as the IPA bubble pressure goes down, the IPA flow rates go up. See also Figure 26.

In contrast thereto, there is no correlation between IPA bubble pressures and IPA flow times (or rates) in the present invention. See Tables 3 and 6 of the Examples (summarized as follows):

IPA Bubble Point	IPA Flow Time
39.5	1396
37.3	1028
37.6	916
40.5	1467

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27.3	933
27.3	783
37.9	788
29	1295
45	1318
40	1194
44	1362

Note – Yen et al. used ASTM F317-72 to measure IPA flow rates. That method was not used in the present specification. See Page 22 of the specification as filed. However, the present invention's lack of correlation between IPA flow rate and IPA bubble rate (measured in both cases using methods similar to ASTM F316-80) remains a valid point of distinction between the present invention and the cited art. Accordingly, this is yet another reason why this rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn. Such action is respectfully requested.

In view of the present amendment and remarks, this case should be passed to allowance and a Notice of Allowance should be issued in due course regarding the same.

Entry of the present amendment for purposes of appeal is respectfully requested. Entry is necessary because Applicant believes that the amended claims are now in condition for allowance notwithstanding the cited art and the Examiner's arguments thereunder.

The present amendments were not submitted at an earlier date as the Examiner's rejections were believed to have been fully met by the amendments and remarks made in the response to the last Office Action. Thus, this response represents the Applicant's only

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opportunity to make the present amendments and remarks a part of the record in this application.

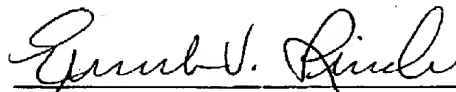
Entry is finally believed proper at this time because the amendments (1) do not raise any new issues that would require further consideration and/or search, since they merely conform in scope to the claims already adequately and properly searched by the Examiner; (2) they do not introduce any new matter; and (3) they do not present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

#### **FEE AUTHORIZATION**

Please charge all fees (e.g., time extension fees and/or excess claim fees) due in connection with this filing to our Deposit Account – No. 19-0733.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence was submitted by facsimile in the USPTO on the date shown on Page 1.



Ernest V. Linek (29,822)  
Attorney for Applicant

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